

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 CIAE-00  
INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 IGA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-07 /071 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA/DSAA:WLANG-NEA/AFN:TSWILKINSON:PG  
APPROVED BY NEA/AFN:MCKING  
PM/SAS:DHESTER  
T:SLEDOGAR (INFO)  
S/S:MR. GAMBLE  
T:SEDGEOGAR (INFO)

-----081407Z 080090 /40

R 070527Z MAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
INFO SECDEF

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PS, PFOR

SUBJECT: REPLY TO DEFMIN FARHAT'S LETTER

1. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO DELIVER ADVANCE COPY OF MAY 2  
LETTER FROM SECDEF BROWN TO DEFMIN FARHAT, TEXT OF WHICH  
FOLLOWS. ORIGINAL OF LETTER WILL BE DELIVERED THROUGH  
DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS IN WASHINGTON. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR.  
MINISTER: THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED  
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BY THE TUNISIAN EMBASSY ON MARCH  
22ND. I AM MOST APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR WARM WISHES ON MY  
APPOINTMENT AS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND LOOK FORWARD TO  
WORKING WITH YOU IN STRENGTHENING THE CLOSE TIES THAT  
TRADITIONALLY HAVE MARKED RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO  
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COUNTRIES.

2. I TOOK GREAT SATISFACTION FROM YOUR COMMENT THAT THE  
MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAS CONTRI-  
BUTED ENORMOUSLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNISIAN ARMED  
FORCES. AS UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE HABIB NOTED IN HIS  
DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED,  
WITHIN ITS OVERALL ARMS SALES POLICIES, TO ASSIST TUNI-  
SIA IN ITS EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSIVE CAPA-  
BILITIES.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON THE SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED IN YOUR LETTER.

4. AS AGREED DURING DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING TUNISIA'S PROCUREMENT OF THE CHAPARRAL AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, WE ARE SUPPLYING THE MIM-72A MISSILE SINCE THE MIM-72C WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE. WE ARE MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PROGRAM AND EXPECT THAT THE AGREED DELIVERY DATES WILL BE MET. UNDER SECRETARY HABIB REPORTED THE CONCERN THAT YOU EXPRESSED TO HIM ABOUT THE PRICE OF THE CHAPARRAL MISSILES. SINCE THEY WILL COME FROM U.S. ARMY STOCKS, THEIR PRICE MUST BE SET IN ACCORDANCE WITH CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY U.S. LEGISLATION. I AM LOOKING FURTHER, HOWEVER, INTO WHAT FLEXIBILITY WE MIGHT HAVE UNDER OUR LEGISLATION AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU LATER ON THIS POINT.

5. THE "LEND-LEASE" OF EQUIPMENT, WHICH UNDER THEN-EXISTING LEGISLATION FORMED THE BASIS OF U.S. SUPPORT TO ITS ALLIES IN WORLD WAR II, IS NOT A PRACTICAL ALTERNATIVE UNDER CURRENT U.S. LEGISLATION. WHILE OCCASIONAL LOANS OF EQUIPMENT MAY BE MADE TO MEET SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR BRIEF PERIODS OF TIME, THEY ARE THE EXCEPTION RATHER THAN THE RULE AND, IN ANY EVENT, THE COSTS OF LENDING THE EQUIPMENT INVOLVED MUST BE FUNDED OUT OF THE LIMITED MONIES FOR GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAT THE CONGRESS MAY AUTHORIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RISE FOR SPECIFIC COUNTRY PROGRAMS. YOU KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT THE CONGRESS HAS DIRECTED THE TERMINATION OF GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE, EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL CASES THAT IT MIGHT SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZE.

6. I AGREE FULLY WITH THE IMPORTANCE THAT YOU ATTACH TO TRAINING. WE HAVE EXPANDED THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TUNISIA THIS YEAR AND WILL CONTINUE TO LEND EMPHASIS TO THIS PROGRAM WITHIN THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US.

7. SIMILARLY, WE WOULD HOPE TO GAIN AN ADEQUATE LEVEL OF CREDIT FUNDS FROM THE CONGRESS TO ENABLE US TO ASSIST IN THE FINANCING OF THE U.S. MATERIEL NEEDED BY THE TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES. AS YOU KNOW, WE PROVIDED TUNISIA DOLS 15 MILLION IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) FINANCING IN THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 1976. WE HAVE ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE DOLS 25 MILLION DURING THE FIFTEEN MONTH PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1977, OF WHICH DOLS 10 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN FURNISHED. PURSUANT TO YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, WE WILL REVIEW SHORTLY OUR WORLD-WIDE COMMITMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE TUNISIA ANOTHER DOLS 10 MILLION

IN FMS FINANCING BY SEPTEMBER 30 IN ADDITION TO THE AGREED 25 MILLION DOLLARS. ALSO, PRESIDENT CARTER HAS INCLUDED 25 MILLION DOLLARS IN FMS FINANCING FOR TUNISIA IN HIS REQUEST TO THE CONGRESS FOR FUNDS FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR, FY 1978.

8. I AM AWARE OF THE DELAYS ENCOUNTERED IN PROVIDING SPARE PARTS SUPPORT FOR THE F-86 PROGRAM. I UNDERSTAND THAT THAT PROBLEM HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED, AND I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GUARD AGAINST SIMILAR DELAYS IN THE FUTURE. TO THIS END, I SUGGEST THAT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WORK WITH THE U.S. LIAISON OFFICE IN DEVELOPING WHAT ARE KNOWN AS "SUPPLY SUPPORT" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARRANGEMENTS. THESE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD AFFORD THE TUNISIAN MILITARY FORCES DIRECT ACCESS TO THE SUPPLY SYSTEM OF THE U.S. FORCES AND SHOULD DO MUCH TO HELP US BE RESPONSIVE IN TIMELY FASHION TO TUNISIAN NEEDS.

9. AS YOU NOTED IN YOUR LETTER, THE TUNISIAN-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION PROVIDES AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF THIS NATURE IN GREATER DETAIL. I WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU WILL CONTINUE TO FEEL FREE TO RAISE DIRECT WITH ME ANY MATTERS OF CONCERN TO YOU.

10. IN CLOSING, LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CONGRATULATIONS AND WARM WISHES. I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THE ARRANGEMENTS THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS MADE IN WELCOMING VISITS BY THE SHIPS OF THE U.S. SIXTH FLEET. ADMIRAL HOLLOWAY HAS TOLD ME OF HIS RECENT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO TUNIS, AND WE BOTH LOOK FORWARD TO A CONTINUATION OF SHIP VISITS AND THE EXPANDED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WHICH ACCOMPANY THEM. SINCERELY, HAROLD BROWN. END TEXT.

11. FOR EMBASSY'S INFO, ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF INCOMING FARHAT LETTER, DATED FEBRUARY 28 (AND DELIVERED HERE AT END OF MARCH) IS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT: MR. SECRETARY: ALLOW ME FIRST OF ALL, MR. SECRETARY, TO EXPRESS MY OWN VERY SINCERE AND WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND THOSE OF OF THE TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES UPON YOUR APPOINTMENT AS HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. I AM CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S WISE CHOICE WAS MOTIVATED BY YOUR HIGH PRINCIPLES AND INTELLECTUAL ABILITY AS WELL AS BY THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICES THAT YOU HAVE RENDERED.

12. I SHOULD LIKE, MR. SECRETARY, WITH YOUR PERMISSION TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO TO DISCUSS THE STATE OF MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND TO PUT FORWARD SEVERAL IDEAS CONCERNING AN ADEQUATE WAY TO

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STRENGTHEN IT FURTHER.

13. I MUST FIRST POINT WITH SATISFACTION TO THE POSITIVE AND FRUITFUL ASPECT OF AMERICAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO TUNISIA. THIS FORM OF COOPERATION, WHICH BEGAN SHORTLY AFTER TUNISIA ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE OVER 20 YEARS AGO, CONTRIBUTED ENORMOUSLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNISIAN ARMY AND IS INDICATIVE OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

14. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THIS MILITARY COOPERATION ASSUMES SEVERAL FORMS: THE TRAINING OF TUNISIAN OFFICERS AND SPECIALISTS IN YOUR FINEST MILITARY SCHOOLS WITH GREAT EXPERIENCE IN VERY ADVANCED TECHNIQUES. SUCH PERSONNEL CAN TODAY SKILLFULLY USE AND REPAIR HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED MILITARY DEVICES; AND THE GRANT-AID-PROGRAM AND THE CREDITS GRANTED UNDER THE HEADING OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES WHICH HAVE PERMITTED TUNISIA TO ACQUIRE EQUIPMENT FOR THE ARMY, NAVY, AND AIR FORCE. THIS EQUIPMENT HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES TO DEVELOP, GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE, AND MASTER SOME ADVANCED TECHNIQUES.

15. TUNISIA, WHICH HAS CHanneled MOST OF ITS EFFORTS TOWARD ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL ENDEAVORS, TODAY REGRETTABLY FINDS ITSELF FACED WITH A NEW SITUATION THAT HAS BEEN CREATED IN THE REGION. IMPERATIVE GEO-POLITICAL REASONS REQUIRE THAT OUR COUNTRY CONSOLIDATE ITS DEFENSE SYSTEM AND GRANT MORE ATTENTION TO SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH NECESSITATE CONSTANT VIGILANCE.

16. IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DEFEND ITS FREEDOM, SAFEGUARD ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND MAKE ITS FULL CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE MORAL VALUES WHICH WE SHARE WITH YOUR COUNTRY, TUNISIA INCREASINGLY FEELS THE URGENT NEED TO ACQUIRE CREDIBLE DEFENSE MEANS. IN THIS SITUATION, MY COUNTRY QUITE NATURALLY TURNS FIRST TO THE UNITED STATES  
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OF AMERICA.

17. I HAD THE HONOR TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH MR. WILLIAM CLEMENTS WHEN HE VISITED TUNISIA IN OCTOBER, 1976. DURING OUR MEETING, MR. CLEMENTS RECALLED THE UNITED STATES' DETERMINATION TO HELP TUNISIA AND TO SUPPORT THE TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES IN CONFORMITY WITH THE SPIRIT OF

RESOLUTION NUMBER 132 PASSED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS ON AUGUST 2, 1976, REGARDING THE RECIPROCAL INTERESTS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

18. THANKS TO FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS, TUNISIA WAS ABLE TO ACQUIRE THE CHAPPARAL AIR DEFENSE WEAPONS SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD BE INSTALLED WITH ITS ENVIRONMENT IN THE BEST CONDITIONS POSSIBLE AND EQUIPPED WITH M.M. 72 C MISSILES, AS WE REQUESTED.

19. AT A TIME WHEN TUNISIA IS APPROACHING A DECISIVE PHASE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ARMED FORCES, I DEEM IT OPPORTUNE TO REQUEST YOU TO EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF STRENGTHENING AND INCREASING TUNISIAN-AMERICAN MILITARY COOPERATION BY:

20. LEND-LEASE ACQUISITION OF EQUIPMENT NEEDED BY THE THREE SERVICES; INCREASING THE GRANT-AID PACKAGE FOR OFFICER TRAINING; GRANTING INCREASED CREDITS PERMITTING ACQUISITION UNDER FOREIGN MILITARY SALES OF THE MATERIEL PROVIDED FOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF THE TUNISIAN ARMED FORCES; SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF SPARE PARTS; SHORTER DELIVERY TIMES AND OTHER FACILITIES.

21. MR. SECRETARY, I WISHED TO INFORM YOU OF MY VIEWS ON THE STATE OF MILITARY COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO DEFINE THE NEW FORM WHICH THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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COOPERATION MUST ASSUME IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A NEW SITUATION.

22. I AM CERTAIN THAT THIS VITAL AND SENSITIVE SUBJECT WHICH CLOSELY AFFECTS TUNISIA'S SECURITY AND OUR COUNTRIES' INTERESTS WILL AGAIN BE RAISED DURING THE POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS OF OUR LEADERS ON THE TUNISIAN-AMERICAN JOINT COMMISSION.

23. ALLOW ME LASTLY, MR. SECRETARY, TO REITERATE MY WARM CONGRATULATIONS AND TO WISH YOU COMPLETE SUCCESS IN YOUR NEW AND IMPORTANT DUTIES. ABDALLAH FARHAT, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. END TEXT.

CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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